

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02226 030930Z

12

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 L-02 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 /040 W

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R 030854Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9210

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2226

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KS

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY PRIMIN ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL

REF: A SEOUL 2141; B SEOUL 295

1. DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS ON MARCH 18, ASSEMBLYMAN HONG CHANG-SOP SAID THAT THE ROKG BORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WITHHOLDING OF THE \$20 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL AND ASKED WHAT GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ABOUT THIS MATTER. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECORD (EMBASSY TRANSLATION), PRIMIN REPLIED:

" I THINK IT IS FORTUNATE THAT WHILE ASSEMBLYMAN HONG WAS SPEAKING, A MESSAGE ARRIVED FROM THE US AND I CAN REPORT ON IT TO YOU. ON MARCH 14 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELIMINATED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ARTICLE AND APPROVED \$165 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR KOREA, INCLUDING THE \$20 MILLION, WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS. I HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT AT PRESENT THE BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE SENATE."

2. DURING VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER, ONE OF HIS AIDES PROPOSED TO POL COUNS THAT EMBASSY ISSUE A STATEMENT CORRECTING IMPRESSION LEFT BY PRIMIN'S
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REPLY. POL COUNS SUGGESTED THAT MATTER WOULD BE

TAKEN UP AT MEETING WITH PRIMIN SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2.
AS REF B INDICATES, REP. FRASER RAISED ISSUE WITH
PRIMIN; AT THIS MEETING LATTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD
NOT MEANT TO ASSERT THAT CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING OF
\$20 MILLION HAD BEEN REMOVE. NEITHER CONGRESSMAN
NOR AIDES PURSUED MATTER FURTHER WITH ROKG OR EMBASSY.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO ISSUE ANY STATEMENT HERE
ON MATTER, ALTHOUGH WE OF COURSE HAVE BEEN SETTING RECORD
STRAIGHT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE QUESTIONED US.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: MASS, KS, US, (HONG CHNAG-SOP)
To: STATE
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